

THE NAUTILUS.

VOL. VII.

JULY, 1893.

No. 3

TO CONCHOLOGISTS.

The Editors of the NAUTILUS would like to impress upon American Conchologists that they are not conducting this paper for their personal aggrandizement, as some persons seem to believe. The work done has been purely a labor of love, for the promotion of interest in conchology; and the Editors have not only put much work into the enterprise, but, from first to last, a considerable number of large and shining Dollars, and this without expectation of pecuniary return.

We have looked forward to the unanimous support and encouragement of American Conchologists, for it is only by such support that a paper of this character can be sustained. We know that there are enough persons in the States interested in Conchology to give this support, and to enable us to increase the size, the number of illustrations and the interest of the articles as well.

We depend upon YOU to aid us in bearing the expenses of publication. We depend upon YOU to send us notes and matter to increase the interest and usefulness of the numbers from month to month. The time we put on this work is time stolen from scientific work of vastly greater magnitude, and it is only by the liberality of the Academy of Natural Sciences and the Wagner Institute that we are enabled to give the attention necessary to conduct a monthly journal.

We write thus because we know that we are not having the sup-

port we deserve from American Conchologists. Scores of subscriptions remain unpaid, and requests by letter to "square up" are calmly ignored.

We would ask our subscribers in all seriousness, Do you need this paper? If so, why not support it. We depend upon the Conchologists of America to help and encourage us in making our NAUTILUS a journal worthy of American Science.

H. A. P. & C. W. J.

BULIMULUS PROTEUS Broderip AND ITS DISTRIBUTION.

BY W. H. DALL.

Bulinus proteus was described by Broderip from Peru in 1832. It was referred by Deshayes to *B. sordidus* of Lesson, an opinion not generally adopted, and which he afterward relinquished. In 1860, Mr. J. Xantus, collecting for the Smithsonian Institution at Cape St. Lucas, obtained one adult and two young specimens of a large *Bulimulus*, which were referred to Broderip's species by Binney; an opinion which was justified by the close resemblance and small amount of material for comparison. The singularity of distribution has been commented on by every one from Binney to Crosse and Fischer in their magnificent work on the Mexican land shells, and Dr. Cooper in recent papers on Lower Californian land shells. By a recent expedition of the California Academy of Sciences to Lower California, nearly 100 specimens of the shell in question were obtained, which I examined while in California in 1892, and which are described by Dr. Cooper (Proc. Cal. Acad., 2d Ser. III, p. 211, 1892), thus for the first time giving an opportunity for careful comparison of our Californian species with that from Peru. A series kindly sent by Dr. Cooper on behalf of the Academy, together with the original specimens of Xantus and a series of fourteen specimens of the Peruvian *B. proteus*, have been critically compared, leaving no doubt, in spite of the close similarity, that the Mexican shell is distinct and must receive a name, as the synonyms are all strictly referable to the Peruvian form.

Bulimulus (*Scutalus*) *montezuma* Dall.

B. (S.) proteus Binney, L. & F. W. Shells N. Am., 1, p. 207, fig. 358, 1869; not of Broderip, P. Z. S., 1832, p. 107.

Habitat, Lower California, mostly from the mountainous region (3500 ft. alt.), Eisen, Belding and Xantus.